REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the present application. In the Final Office Action mailed November 1, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 7-12 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Knott (USP 5,511,105). The Examiner next rejected claims 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Knott. Claims 4-6, 13, 14, and 16-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sohval et al. (USP 4,637,040) in view of Knott.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 3. Claim 3 has been canceled.

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Knott. The Examiner has concluded that "Knott teaches that the second fan beam has a spatial coverage equal to that of the first fan beam" based on the finding that "each fan beam ha[s a] penumbra that extends along a z-axis," with reference to Fig. 3, the abstract of Knott, and column 3, line [] through column 4, line 8 of Knott. OFFICE ACTION, November 1, 2005, p. 3.

Applicant agrees that Knott discloses multiple focal spots on an anode dish and that those focal spots "are generated so close together that the focal position is essentially the same for all focal spots." Abstract. Having closely situated focal sports does not correspond to a substantially similar spatial coverage for all focal spots. A skilled artisan will readily appreciate that focal spots correspond to the origin of x-radiation from the anode dish. In this regard, Knott discloses that it is desirable, for a multi-target anode, that the targets be positioned in relative close proximity to one another so that the focal spots are essentially the same. Spatial coverage, on the other hand, corresponds to the expanse of the x-radiation beam that emanates from a focal spot.

The Examiner has assumed that Knott teaches that x-ray beams from closely situated focal spots must have the same spatial coverage; however, there is no teaching in the art of record to reach such a conclusion.

Applicant agrees that Knott discloses that the x-radiation beams emanating from its disclosed focal spots exit the x-ray tube through a common beam exit window; however, having a window sized to receive and pass x-ray beams from multiple sources does not equate to the beams having the same or substantially similar spatial coverage. A beam exit window sized to pass multiple beams is exactly that – a window, and with all windows, it defines only the maximum of which that will pass, not also the minimum. Therefore, Knott does not teach that called for in amended claim 1.

Similarly, claim 9, which also stands rejected as being anticipated by Knott, calls for target electrodes that produce x-ray beams of substantially similar spatial coverage notwithstanding the electrodes being radially displaced from one another relative to a center of an anode disc. As established with respect to the rejection of claim 3, Knott teaches electron sources that are closely situated to another, but neither discloses nor suggests that the spatial coverage of one electron source is substantially similar to that of another electron source. As the prima facie case for anticipation requires a showing, by the Examiner, that each and every element called for in the claim is disclosed by the reference, the rejection of claim 9 cannot be sustained.

Applicant has canceled claims 18-24.

Therefore, in light of at least the foregoing, Applicant respectfully believes that the present application is in condition for allowance. As a result, Applicant respectfully requests timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-2 and 4-17.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's consideration of these Amendments and Remarks and cordially invites the Examiner to call the undersigned, should the Examiner consider any matters unresolved.

Respectfully submitted,

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